ACT IX : KARAKURI *
THE PRINCESS OF THE AUTOMATONS

"A BALL IN THE MIDST OF THE FLAMES"

HIGHNESS, STEP BACK!

WHAT ?!

IAAHHHH!!

TAN TAN TAN

IN POSITION!

SCHLACK

FIRE!!

DAMN!

AAAA

DADADA

DADADA

!!

WAWAWA

BLAM

BLAM

DON'T BE SO SURPRISED. YOUR LIFE MEANS NOTHING TO US...

OUR ONLY AIM IS TO DESTROY AUTOMATONS.

WHAT?! BUT... YOU...

PAF

...

PLAC

CRAC

GOOOH...

BUT OUR LIVES ARE EVEN MORE WORTHLESS THAN YOURS.

YOU USED YOUR OWN BODIES TO PROTECT US?!

GUY!

LUCILLE!

IF YOUR ONLY GOAL IS TO DESTROY AUTOMA-TONS...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PROTECT ME!

YOU WERE RIGHT ...

AND EVEN THOUGH ...

AT LEAST ...

I COULD FIND...

WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WITH ALL THOSE BULLETS IN MY BODY ...

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OLD HAG ?!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

DAMN YOU, GUY!

CLIC CLIC CLIC

NOOOO!!

SUAAH!!
ATTENTION!!

THAT THING IS NOT HUMAN!

WAAAHHH! HER BODY IS RIDDLED WITH BULLETS AND SHE'S STILL ABLE TO MOVE!

AHHH!!
MOVE
!!!

CALL BACKUP!

HIGHNESS, OVER HERE...

ELISE ...

DAMN SHIRO-GANES !!

HOW SHAMEFUL!

GH H...

AH!

WOOF

OUR TARGET HAS TAKEN THE PRINCESS' APPEARANCE!

SHOOT ON SIGHT! DON'T MISS HER!

MISTRESS FRANCINE!

WHAT A WASTE!

WE CAN'T TRUST AN AUTOMATON LIKE HER!

...TRIED TO KILL ME TOO!

BAINES... MY AP'TCHA ...

WATCH OUT, BARON!

GOOH!

HI!!!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

GHH!

VOOF

FAREWELL... PRINCE-THAT-COULD'VE-BEEN-MY-FATHER!!

THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS DRENCH EVERYTHING HERE WITH MY ANGER!

IT'S OVER! NOW THAT MY PROJECT IS RUINED...

ZWING

SCHLNG!!

I'LL NEVER LET YOU DO THIS!
DAMN SHIRO-GANE !!
JUST TRY IT!

GN

HEUH

HEUH

NARUMI... BE CAREFUL ...

THEY'RE FIGHTING ...

FATHER!

ELISE!

NO! STAND UP!

PRINCESS, WE'VE BEEN BADLY HIT...

LEAVE US!

OUT OF THE QUESTION!

COME ON, TAKE HER!

WHAT?

THOSE PEOPLE ...

WHAT A RELIEF, YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND!

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THEM ...

I WON'T GO ANYWHERE...

IF THEY DON'T COME WITH US!

I'M AN AUTOMATON, CREATED BY MISTRESS FRANCINE HERSELF! I WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP HER IN HER DAILY TASKS.

WHAT A STRANGE SHIROGANE YOU ARE.

YOU WANNA KNOW THAT NOW?!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO TAKE ELISE'S PLACE?

TELL ME ONE THING...

SHE'S THE MAIDEN OF THE AUTOMATONS. SHE'S NOBLER, PRETTIER AND SMARTER THAN ALL THE HUMANS GATHERED TOGETHER.

MISTRESS FRANCINE IS OUR CREATOR. SHE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE LIFE TO EVERY AUTOMATON...

SO, WE DECIDED TO MAKE A CIRCUS BAND IN ORDER TO TRAVEL THE WORLD AND FIND A WAY TO MAKE HER LAUGH.

IS DEEPLY ENGRAVED INSIDE US.

WE'VE BEEN CREATED TO MAKE HER LAUGH. THAT FUNCTION...

ALL THE GRATINGS OF MY WHEELS DISAPPEARED WHEN SHE WAS CARESSING MY HEAD...

THE SIMPLE ACT OF HEARING HER VOICE MADE ME HAPPY.

MISTRESS FRANCINE IS REALLY KIND.

AP'TCHA, ONLY A FEW HUMANS WOULD CONSIDER THIS PLACE BEAUTIFUL.

I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SO BEAUTIFUL ...

BUT IF YOU SAY SO, IT MEANS THAT HUMANS MUST SEE BEAUTY IN IT...

IT'S BEAUTI-FUL, ISN'T IT?

AP'TCHA ...

AND THAT DIFFERENCE IN POINTS OF VIEW CAUSES CONFLICTS AND EVEN WARS TO THE POINT OF MAKING A LANDSCAPE LIKE THIS TOTALLY DISAPPEAR.

OBVIOUSLY, THEY DON'T ...

SO, ALL HUMANS DON'T FEEL THE SAME THING?

THAT'S THE REASON WHY...

THE EYES YOU GAVE US MAKE ALL THE AUTOMATONS SEE THE SAME THING.

THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO CHANGE OUR FEELINGS AND WAYS OF ACTING SIMPLY BECAUSE OF A DIFFERENCE IN POINT OF VIEW.

WHY DON'T THEY USE EYEBALLS OF BETTER QUALITY?!

THAT IS WEIRD, MISTRESS ...

IF IT'S A SOURCE OF CONFLICT,

...I CAN'T LAUGH.

TELL ME, AP'TCHA...

MISTRESS!

WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE...

SINCE WE ALL SEE THE SAME THING...

IF WE COULD UNDER-STAND HOW THEY SEE US AND EMULATE THAT IN OUR THINKING, THEN MAYBE WE AUTOMATONS MIGHT BE ABLE...

...TO CHANGE?!

IF WE COULD REPLACE HUMANS?

WHAT WOULD WE FEEL...

VVV

H
H

IF WE COULD REPLACE HUMANS...

HAUNT MY SPIRIT!

SINCE THAT DAY, HER WORDS...

BUT SINCE MISTRESS FRANCINE IS ONE OF THE NOBLEST PEOPLE, I COULDN'T TAKE THE PLACE OF A MERE WOMAN.

THEN I WOULD BE ABLE TO TEACH HER WHAT HUMANS REALLY FEEL.

WE AUTO-MATONS HAVE TIME.

BESIDES, THAT OLD GEEZER BELIEVED IN ALL MY PROMISES!

SO, THAT'S WHY YOU CHOSE ELISE?!

NO!

AP'TCHA!

SP-AFF!

MY STORY IS OVER, SHIROGANE.

DAMN!

AND THAT'S THE END FOR YOU TOO!!

BOOH

BLACKOUT